

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 01254 150218Z

61

ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 1254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: REVOLUTIONARY LEFT RESPONDS

REF: LIMA 1089, 1172

SUMMARY. TWO NEW LEFTIST PRO-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN
CREATED IN THE WAKE OF THE FEBRUARY 5 CIVIL DISORDERS. ALTHOUGH
THE ORGANIZATIONS OSTENSIBLY ARE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE
MILITARY IN DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION, INSOFAR AS THEY ARE
SUCCESSFUL IN COALESCING LABOR, PEASANT AND OTHER GROUPS
THEY COULD BECOME A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT TO THE MILGOV.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE AFTERMATH OF LAST WEEK'S RIOTING, THE PERUVIAN
LEFT HAS ISSUED CALLS FOR THE FORMATION OF PEOPLES' ORGANIZATIONS
"IN DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS". ON FEBRUARY 8,
A SO-CALLED REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE COORDINATION OF POPULAR
ORGANIZATIONS WAS CONSTITUTED. THE COMMITTEE, WHICH
ON PAPER AT LEAST HAS ESTABLISHED 30 DISTRICT SUB-COMMITTEES
IN LIMA, CLAIMS TO REPRESENT REVOLUTIONARY LABOR,
PEASANT, YOUTH AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS. THUS FAR, 45
OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THE RECENTLY-FORMED AND
GOP-CONTROLLED NATIONAL AGRARIAN CONFEDERATION, THE GOVERNMENT-
DOMINATED LABOR UNION CTRP, THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED CGTP
AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT-INSPIRED CNT LABOR UNIONS, AND
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PAGE 02 LIMA 01254 150218Z

REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH GROUPS HAVE JOINED.

2. IN AN APPEAL TO THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE, THE NEW PEOPLES COORDINATING COMMITTEE WARNED OF COUNTER-REVOLUTION AND SUBVERSION DIRECTED BY THE CIA AND APRA. THE COMMITTEE SAID THIS SUBVERSIVE EFFORT IS AN ATTEMPT TO ERODE ARMED FORCES' PRESTIGE, TO DAMAGE THE ECONOMY AND TO DESTABILIZE SOCIETY BY FOMENTING CONFUSION AND STRIFE.

3. TO COMBAT SUBVERSION THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE COORDINATION OF POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS PROPOSES TO DO THE FOLLOWING: (A) GUARANTEE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS AND OTHER BASICS; (B) WORK TO PROTECT PUBLIC ORDER AND PREVENT VANDALISM AND OTHER FORMS OF SABOTAGE; (V) CLARIFY POLITICAL REALITIES AND COUNTERACT DISTORTION AND RUMOR.

4. SINCE THE GOP FOOD MINISTRY SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED ALL CONCERNED THAT IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INSURING FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY, THE COMMITTEE WILL LIKELY CONFINE ITS ACTIVITIES (IF INDEED IT DOES ANYTHING AT ALL) TO THEIR SECOND AND THIRD OBJECTIVES. AT A FEBRUARY 11 PRESS CONFERENCE, COMMITTEE MEMBERS CLAIMED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME COMPETING LABOR ORGANIZATIONS (MINUS, OF COURSE, THE APRA LABOR CENTRAL CTP) WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AND THE WORKING CLASS WAS UNITED IN A COMMON RESPONSE TO IMPERIALISM AND THE PEOPLE'S ENEMIES. THE NATURE OF RESPONSE, ACCORDING TO PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE SPOKESMEN, WILL BE POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CAN STAND SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES IN THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER. EXPRESO WORKERS' SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE OF THEIR NEWSPAPER AGAINST MOB ATTACK WAS CONSIDERED AN EXAMPLE OF THIS POLICY IN ACTION. THE PEOPLES COMMITTEE WILL ALSO SEEK TO "CLEARLY PROVE THE INTERVENTION OF THE CIA AND THE OLIGARCHY WITH ITS ARMED INSTRUMENT APRA" IN LAST WEEK'S RIOTS. IT CALLS UPON WORKERS TO PREPARE THE DEFENSE OF FACTORY AND FARM FROM CIA AND COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ATTACKS.

5. SUBSEQUENT TO THE FORMATION OF THE PEOPLES COMMITTEE, A GROUP OF LEFTIST/MARXIST INTELLECTUALS, INCLUDING THE LA PRENSA, EXPRESO AND LA CRONICA DIRECTORS, WALTER PENALOZA, ALBERTO RUIZ ELDREDGE, AND GUILLERMO THORNDIKE, ANNOUNCED
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PAGE 03 LIMA 01254 150218Z

THE CREATION OF THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MGP). THE MRP PURPORTS TO BE A RESPONSE TO A CALL FROM PRESIDENT VELASCO FOR REVOLUTIONARY MILITANTS TO UNITE AND IT INTENDS TO BE A POLITICAL MOVEMENT OR UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL CHANNEL AND COORDINATE THE PARTICIPATION OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, AND OTHER MASS GROUPS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS.

6. COMMENT. CO-SIGNERS OF THE MRP DECLARATION MAY CONSIDER THEMSELVES FOUNDERS OF WHAT COULD DEVELOP INTO AN INSTITUTIONALIZED PARTY OF THE REVOLUTION --MOW A SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY AND PRESIDENT VELASCO BUT SOMEDAY PERHAPS THAT CIVILIAN POLITICAL MOVEMENT WHICH WOULD SUPPLANT THE MILITARY IN THE GOVERNING TASK. IF INDEED THE SIGNERS BELIEVE THIS, WHICH IS BY NO MEANS ESTABLISHED, THEN THEY MAY BE GREATLY DECEIVED.

7. THE MILITARY AS AN INSTITUTION IS LIKELY TO BE DISCONCERTED BY BOTH THESE CALLS TO THE MASSES WHICH, ALTHOUGH OSTENSIBLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE ARMED FORCES, CONTAIN THE SEEDS OF MASS ORGANIZATIONS WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY MOVE INTO OPPOSITION SHOULD MILITARY REVOLUTIONARY ARDOR WANES. THE MILGOV IS NOT LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE THEIR DEVELOPMENT BUT MAY BE UNABLE TO COMPLETELY PREVENT IT.

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